

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING

October 6, 2005

(Approved November 3, 2005)

Members Present: Edward Murdough, Karen Schlitzer, David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Kevin Pratt, Al Burbank, John Hoglund, Peter Russell, George Sykes, J. William Degan, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: Brad Simpkins, Earl Sweeney, Scott Weden, Joseph Butts.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training*—Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Jeff Phillips, Bureau Chief; Heather Newland, Recording Secretary.
NH Association of Fire Chiefs—Chief Mike Williams, Hooksett Fire-Rescue.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Call to Order. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair David Duquette at 10:07 a.m. on Thursday, October 6, 2005 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, Classroom 5, 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. September 1, 2005. **Motion** was made by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Murdough, to approve the Minutes of the September 1, 2005 Commission meeting as printed and distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

None.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services. Chief Prentiss was absent. Chair Duquette noted that TEMSIS is up and running.

Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office. Director Degnan gave his report.

Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Simpkins was absent; however, he had submitted the following report to the Recording Secretary for distribution:

- (a) Fire Statistics to Date: 478 fires; 172 acres burned; 11 structures impacted.
- (b) Upcoming fire crew training at Franklin's Veteran's Memorial Ski Area. Training will be on Saturday, October 8, from 8 am until 6 pm. Topics include wildland-urban interface, chainsaw safety, pumps and water handling, and land navigation.
- (c) Since the September meeting, the Division has sent out three single resources to assist with relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina. Resources include a wildland firefighter/paramedic, a personnel time recorder and a communications unit leader.
- (d) This week the Bureau Chief is attending a meeting in Quebec in regard to their historic fire season of this past year. Topics will include safety considerations, crew training requirements and standards, and the sharing of fire fighting resources across international boundaries.
- (e) The Division of Forests and Lands has proposed legislation for the upcoming session. One of the changes would be to add a penalty clause for violations of our administrative rules. Currently, fire permit violations are handled under RSA 227-L:17. However, the law does not clearly specify many of the offenses that are found under administrative rule. Therefore, we are proposing language that would make it a violation-level offense to violate an administrative rule.
- (f) Our new administrative rules went into effect at midnight on October 1. There have been some significant changes to the types of fire permits. A copy of the new rules can be found electronically on our website at www.nhdfl.org.

Item 4. Curriculum Review. Chair Duquette reported that the Curriculum Status Report by Chief Rosolen is in each Commission member's packet and is as follows:

- (a) Driver/Operator:
 - (1) Pumps:
No classes scheduled at this time.
 - (2) Aerial Apparatus:
The visiting committee has met recently and is looking at the IFSTA curriculum to supplement Dave Duquette's program, which will then be updated.
- (b) Hazardous Materials:

- (1) Operations:
This program is well underway at this point with no problems reported.
- (2) Technician:
The trailer is proving to be a valuable asset and will be an on-going work in progress; a new larger trailer has been ordered in order to contain the ever-growing demand of Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction. A second larger trailer has been purchased to accommodate the added equipment for this program.
- (c) Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:
A number of Part 139 FAA classes have been approved for this summer.
- (d) NFPA 1030 Series:
 - (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners:
At this point classes will be scheduled periodically as they consistently fill up. Inspector II Visiting Committee has started the process. The first three days will be cognitive and class activities, and the last two days will cover Citations.
 - (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator committee met and discussed their next course of action, which is reviewing the New York State curriculum. Progress is continuing with this committee.
 - (3) NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator:
Will probably follow the 1033 standard.
- (e) Rescue Series:
 - (1) Structural Collapse:
No pilots scheduled as yet.
 - (2) Confined Space:
A confined space trailer is in the process of being purchased from Mike Carrier of Merrimack Fire at this time.
 - (3) Technical Rope Rescue:
Curriculum was approved at the May 5, 2005 Commission meeting. We may be sending visiting committee members out to CMC for training and come back to do TtT's.
- (f) NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and Firefighter II:
Train-the-Trainers are successful thus far with over 250 instructors attending both at the Academy and in the field from Littleton to Hollis. These programs are doing well.
- (g) NFPA 1021 Fire Officer:
A class is currently under way.

Chief Rosolen stated that approximately two years ago, the Commission members voted to accept Fire Officer III and IV for Chief Officer Designation. We are Pro Board accredited to check technical competencies. As of June 20, 2005, Commissioner Carrier attained Fire Officer III and IV.

- (h) NFPA 1041 Instructor:

The Jaffrey class (Instructor I) is completed. The new curriculum for Instructor I is almost ready. An Instructor III class is scheduled for January at the Elliot Hospital.

Commissioner Carrier reported that Captain Chandler is working on a matrix. A new Instructor program is being sent back to the Visiting Committee. This is another option, which will take the place of the 16-hour Instructional Techniques for Company Officer. The new matrix will be brought to the next Commission meeting.

(i) NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighter:

Doing well at this point..

(j) Issue Item:

(1) A question has come up regarding testing for FFIA and B. If someone passes FFIA and fails FFIB exam (written), does the person have to take FFIA&B all over or just FFIB?

According to administrative rule Fire 403.07:

1. Tests for certification may be taken and failed two times after which the candidate shall retake the specific module or course in which the failure occurred.
2. After completion of retraining on the failed module, or course, the student may retake the test two more times.

I need, if you will, an interpretation of the FFIB retake.

Commissioner Schlitzer stated that a student would only have to take the FFIB program again. Chair Duquette asked if we need to address this in the Administrative Rules. Director Mason noted that we cannot clarify everything. We thought we had covered everything with the last update.

(2) Also, CEVO (Coach Emergency Vehicle Operation) and CDL accepted as a prerequisite for Aerial and Pump Apparatus programs?

Chair Duquette asked where this question came from. Chief Rosolen responded that students occasionally ask. Director Mason asked if CEVO and CDL cover all the standards in D/O All Vehicles. Commissioner Burbank answered that the CEVO program is all classroom, with no driving involved. There is driving involved in the CDL test.

Commissioner Burbank stated that he is a NAPD instructor, and that 82 percent of those with CDL licenses fail the NAPD course. He noted that it's a tough course, and the obstacle course part of it has been tightened up.

Chair Duquette said that the issue is: Does the staff enforce the requirement that a student needs the NAPD course. Commissioner Heglund said that his recommendation is yes, keep the NAPD program.

Item 5. Academy Awards. Chair Duquette deferred the Academy Awards report to Director Mason. Director Mason announced that the schedule for November 3 is:

3:00 p.m.	Commission Meeting
5:00 p.m.	Rehearsal and Portraits
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Academy Awards Ceremony

Commissioner Heglund will do the initial opening and the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chair Carrier will read the plaques. The escorts for the honorees will be:

Chief Perry Plummer	Chair Duquette
Chief Stephen Carrier	Commissioner Burbank
Chief Robert "Bud" Nelson	Chair Fortier (Retired)
Chief Ronald O'Keefe	Commissioner Williams
Chief Harold Harbour	Commissioner Russell
Jennifer Harper	Commissioner Murdough
Pam Urban-Morin	Director Degnan
Robert Waters	Director Mason

Director Mason also announced that the NH Fire Service Committee of Merit is having its annual awards night at the Fire Academy on Wednesday, October 12, at 6:30 p.m. The Committee of Merit has teamed up with the Emergency Medical Services annual awards.

V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #94.

- 1) NORTH AMERICAN FIRE TRAINING DIRECTORS
The annual meeting of the NAFTD was held in Tennessee two weeks ago. Our new president, Gary Wilson from Missouri, has asked me to remain the secretary for the next two years, which I will do! We had a myriad of discussions and presentations, which were both interesting and educational.
- 2) NH FIRE SERVICE COMMITTEE OF MERIT
The annual Committee of Merit award ceremony will commence at 6:30 pm on October 12, 2005 at the Fire Academy Auditorium. All are invited and we have merged with the annual EMS awards this year!
- 3) NH HUNDRED CLUB

Until a couple years ago I had no idea who or what The Hundred Club was! I was missing out on something big...they are organized to help the families of fallen firefighters and police officers, killed in the line of duty. Benefits: A check for \$10,000 immediately, \$300 for each child at Christmas until age 17, \$100 for each birthday until 17, two weeks at camp per year until 17, and presently \$16,800 per year for college. What a great group! See attached in your packet.

Director Mason stated that his goal is to get one person to join by the next Commission meeting.

4) FIRE CORPS

The president's initiative with The Citizen Corps has a fire service component...the Fire Corps. This group is sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters and the National Volunteer Fire Council. This group organizes volunteers to assist in fire stations wherever they can...maintenance, paperwork, or whatever. I will report more as I receive it.

5) WHAT'S NEXT...CREDENTIALING

Since 9/11/01 The Department of Homeland Security has been working on a national credentialing system! The final draft of the report has been written and we will be the agency charged with credentialing for the state and the report recommends that DHS offer the resources to carry out this program. We have done things right: 1) being legislatively charged with certification; 2) following nationally accepted standards for certification curriculum; 3) having accredited programs by the Pro Board; 4) having a transcript data base program. With what we have we could start this project with minimal effort thanks to the decisions made by the Commission! KUDOS!

6) RESCUE SYSTEMS II

October 17 – 21, 2005 we will be hosting Rescue Systems II. A program dedicated to urban search and rescue with a myriad of tools...we even rent a crane for the program! It is a great tool for rescue specialists!

Director Mason stated that we have a waiting list for this program.

7) CERTIFICATION LESS THAN FIREFIGHTER I

The NAFTD was contacted by the NFPA 1001 Committee (Professional Qualifications for Fire Fighter) to see if there should be a certification less than Firefighter I. The NAFTD unanimously agreed that the current objectives in NFPA 1001 for Firefighter I should be the minimal accepted certification for firefighter. Please see the letter attached...I think we may wish to go on record with our thoughts.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Degnan, to support the position of the North American Fire Training Directors as stated in their letter to Assistant Director Pat Marlatt, Maryland Fire Rescue Institute, dated October 3, 2005, in regard to a level of competency below Firefighter I. That letter states: "NAFTD does not support a level of competency below Fire Fighter I. It is the belief of our membership that Fire Fighter I is the minimum national standard for

firefighters. Providing a competency level less than Fire Fighter I will only reduce the minimum competency and allow firefighters an option of reducing the training and competencies needed to work safely.”

Motion passed with Commissioner Schlitzer abstaining.

Chair Duquette asked that Director Mason send a letter of support.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Rules, House Bill 303.

Director Mason stated House Bill 303 removed Emergency Medical Services from the Commission name. It also replaced in the law anywhere it stated we are responsible for the hiring and training standards for all full time personnel, it stated firefighter in some places and it stated full time fire service personnel in others. Now it says full time fire service personnel everywhere. But it has granted the Commission the ability to waive the hiring requirements and training requirements based on emergency response and litigation is not the main part of the position description. It passed and went into affect August 20, 2005.

Director Mason said he had some recommendations for changes in the Administrative Rules, which he had emailed to Commissioner Schlitzer for her comments. A copy of Director Mason's and Commissioner Schlitzer's comments are in each Commission member's packet.

After some discussion on the comments, Commissioner Sykes noted that he would like a clean copy of what the Commission members are to vote on. Commissioner Schlitzer stated that, the way it is worded, it leans toward the person receiving the waiver, not the position. Commissioner Carrier asked if the agency should request the waiver, and Director Mason answered yes. Director Degnan said that we need to define what “predominant” means when referring to “predominant responsibilities.”

Chair Duquette established a Waiver Rules Committee. Members of that Committee are Chair Duquette, Commissioners Sykes, Pratt, and Williams, and Director Mason. This Committee will be responsible for coming up with the final draft for the waiver rules.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Investigations of Suspended Instructors. Director Mason said that we have received complaints about an Instructor who has been suspended by the Director's office, teaching as a volunteer. We have received a complaint from one of the students. We need a Committee to do the investigation. Chair Duquette appointed Commissioners Carrier, Butts, and Murdough.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. Portfolio Program. Fire Officer IV which is accredited here. First accredited program allowed through the program.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 10/06/05
2. Minutes of Meeting – 09/01/05 – DRAFT--Not Approved
3. Curriculum Status Report 10/06/05
4. Minutes of Meeting – 06/09/05 – Approved 09/01/05
5. Director's Report #94—October 6, 2005
6. Number of Personnel Certified in NH 07/01/05 to 10/05/05
7. Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program—FY 2005 Award Recipients 09/30/05
8. North American Fire Training Directors Letter Dated October 3, 2005
9. The Hundred Club of NH Information and Membership Application
10. NE Division International Assn of Fire Chiefs Presents "Interoperability: More Than Just Radios
11. CFOD, the Next Step in Professional Development for the Fire Service
12. Invitation to Attend the Governor's Signing Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week
13. Proposed Changes for PART Fire 704 Waivers